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**United States Patent** [19]**Cisar**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,931,873**[45] **Date of Patent:** **\*Aug. 3, 1999**[54] **PROGRAMMABLE MOBILE DEVICE WITH THUMB WHEEL**[75] **Inventor:** **James M. Cisar, Wadsworth, Ohio**[73] **Assignee:** **Telxon Corporation, Akron, Ohio**

[\*] **Notice:** This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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[58] **Field of Search** ..... 701/1, 19, 20,  
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A programmable mobile terminal which includes a thumb wheel for selecting among a plurality of functions executable by the mobile terminal. The programmable mobile terminal allows a user to employ the same hand that is holding the mobile terminal to scroll through and select a function among a plurality of functions via the thumb wheel. The wheel portion of thumb wheel is rotated either clockwise or counter clockwise by the user's thumb or other finger to scroll a screen cursor through the functions and once the screen cursor of the mobile terminal is positioned at a desired function, the user can depress the wheel portion in a transaxial direction with the same thumb or finger to select the desired function. Also, the programmable mobile terminal allows a user to scan bar code information and use the thumb wheel for selecting among a plurality of functions relating to the scanned bar code information.

**22 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**